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A-368

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PRIORITY

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM : Embassy Moscow

DATE: September 17, 1963

SUBJECT: Biographic Data on New Izvestiya Correspondent  
Andrei Itskov

REF

On September 16 the Embassy received a visa application for the new Izvestiya correspondent in Washington, Andrei ITSKOV. Itskov is a handsome man, born in 1929 in Moscow of Ukrainian parents; he is over 6 ft. tall, weighs near 200 lbs., and has a dark complexion. He is pleasant, poised and probably quite effective -- he is also aware of these qualities. He has been married for two years to a 23 year old blond Muscovite. Mrs. Itskov, who is very much a lady, is now studying English, and speaks good French (probably G-4) which she studied at the Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages.

Itskov graduated from the Moscow Institute of International Relations in history in 1952. He has spent most of his journalistic career up to now at Moscow Radio (1 1/2 years). He began as a reporter, then became an editor, and then a commentator. In 1961 he was assigned to head the American section of the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As head of the section he spent much of his time shepherding American correspondents around the Soviet Union, but says he didn't enjoy this work. He left the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about six months ago, after being absent for several months with a kidney ailment, to join the staff of Izvestiya.

He apparently first got to know ADZHEBEI, the present editor of Izvestiya, several years ago when Itskov edited a book entitled "The Day in the World" ("Dni mira") a collection of essays describing life in various parts of the world on one day in the late 1950's. Adzhebei contributed essays to the collection. Itskov contributed essays on New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States. Although Itskov joined the staff

GROUP 1

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SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3828

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COORDINATION

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of Izvestiya only six months ago, Mrs. Itskov implied he is the personal choice of Adzhubei for the Washington assignment.

While working for Radio Moscow, Itskov covered, among other things, youth affairs and attended the Vienna and Helsinki Youth Festivals. He has travelled abroad to Western Europe and India. He has not yet been in America, but his father, an agronomist, spent almost a year in the United States in the late 1930's.

Itskov went to India as interpreter and correspondent with a Soviet Delegation looking for a suitable site for a factory to manufacture antibiotics. During this assignment he travelled extensively in India.

Itskov speaks good English.

For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim

*Malcolm Toon*

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Counselor for Political Affairs